

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PEKING 02899 091151Z  
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 SCS-06 CA-01 INR-07 EB-08  
L-03 PRS-01 SS-15 INRE-00 /054 W  
-----120192 091202Z /12  
O 090911Z DEC 77  
FM USLO PEKING  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9369

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 2899

STADIS//////////

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: CASC, PCM (LASHER, ALAN B)  
SUBJ: USCIT ENGINEER DETAINED IN PRC

FOR EA/PRCM

1. ALAN BE LASHER, AN EMPLOYEE OF THE PULLMAN-KELLOGG CO, WAS ASSAULTED BY THREE CHINESE IN THE SMALL TOWN OF SHUI-FU, YUNNAN, ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 29. LASHER IS AN ENGINEER WORKING AT AN AMMONIA-URIA PLANT BEING CONSTRUCTED BY PULLMAN-KELLOGG IN SHUI-FU. LOCAL PUBLIC SECURITY BUREAU (PSB) AUTHORITIES HAVE QUESTIONED LASHER FREQUENTLY REGARDING THE CASE AND REFUSE TO PERMIT HIM TO DEPART YUNNAN UNTIL THEIR INVESTIGATION IS COMPLETED. LASHER HAS A HISTORY OF HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE WHICH HAS BEEN SERIOUSLY AGGRAVATED BY BOTH THE ASSAULT AND THE SUBSEQUENT UNFRIENDLY POLICE QUESTIONING. PULLMAN AND KELLOGG REPS IN PEKING HAD BEEN MEETING WITH CHINA NATIONAL TECHNICAL IMPORT CORP. (CNTIC) OFFICIALS BUT TO NO EFFECT. AS A LAST RESORT THE KELLOGG CHIEF IN PEKING, BILL HILL, REQUESTED USLO AID.

2. ALL OTHER KELLOGG EMPLOYEES AT THE YUNNAN SITE HAVE QUIT WORK IN PROTEST AGAINST LASHER'S TREATMENT. A MAJOR PLANT MALFUNCTION YESTERDAY (DEC 7) HAS MADE THE CHINESE BUYERS AT  
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THE SITE ANXIOUS TO GET THE AMERICANS BACK ON THE JOB, AND THEY HAVE FINALLY INTERCEDED ACTIVELY WITH THE LOCAL PSB ON LASHER'S BEHALF. THERE NOW APPEARS TO BE A COMMITMENT BY THE LOCAL PSB TO PERMIT LASHER'S DEPARTURE BY MONDAY, DECEMBER 12.

3. USLO HAS REQUESTED A MEETING WITH MFA CONSULAR DEPARTMENT TO EXPRESS AN INTEREST IN LASHER'S WELFARE AND TO

SEEK THEIR GUIDANCE AS TO HOW TO HANDLE THE MATTER. MFA  
PROMISED TO RETURN CALL BY NOON SATURDAY DEC 10 TO ARRANGE  
AN APPOINTMENT.

4. USLO IS STILL UNCERTAIN WHY THE LOCAL PSB HAS BEEN SO  
AGGRESSIVE AND UNFRIENDLY IN THIS CASE. THEY APPEAR TO WANT  
LASHER TO ADMIT THAT HE HALLUCINATED THE ASSAULT. PEKING  
CNTIC OFFICIALS SEEM ALSO TO BE UNSYMPATHETIC AND ARE ESPECIALLY  
HORRIFIED BY THE ON-SITE AMERICANS PROTEST WORK STOPPAGE.

5. WE HOPE THAT THE MATTER WILL BE RESOLVED BY MONDAY'S  
RELEASE OF LASHER. USLO WILL KEEP DEPARTMENT INFORMED OF  
ALL DEVELOPMENTS.

6. HILL HAS REQUESTED USLO TO TREAT THE INCIDENT AS STRICTLY  
CONFIDENTIAL. ANY PUBLICITY WILL ADVERSELY AFFECT KELLOGGS'S  
OPERATIONS IN THE PRC AND STRAIN THE COMPANY'S RELATIONS WITH  
THE CHINESE.  
WOODCOCK

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## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
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**Decaption Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Executive Order:** GS  
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**Subject:** USCIT ENGINEER DETAINED IN PRC FOR EA/PRCM  
**TAGS:** CASC, (LASHER, ALAN B)  
**To:** STATE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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